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KING OF THE MONSTERS
CAN G-FORCE SURVIVE?
IN THE GRIP OF GODZILLA!
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RANDY STRADLEY: writer ★ **BOBBY RUBIO** + **RICH SUCHY**: pencils

BRIAN GARVEY + **DANIEL RIVERA**: inks

CLEM ROBINS + **MIKE DELEPINE**: letters ★ **BOB EGGLETON**: cover

MATT HOLLINGSWORTH + **CARY PORTER**: colors

RANDY STRADLEY + **EDWARD MARTIN III** + **ROBERT CONTE**: editors

MARK COX + **SCOTT TICE**: designers ★ **MIKE RICHARDSON**: publisher

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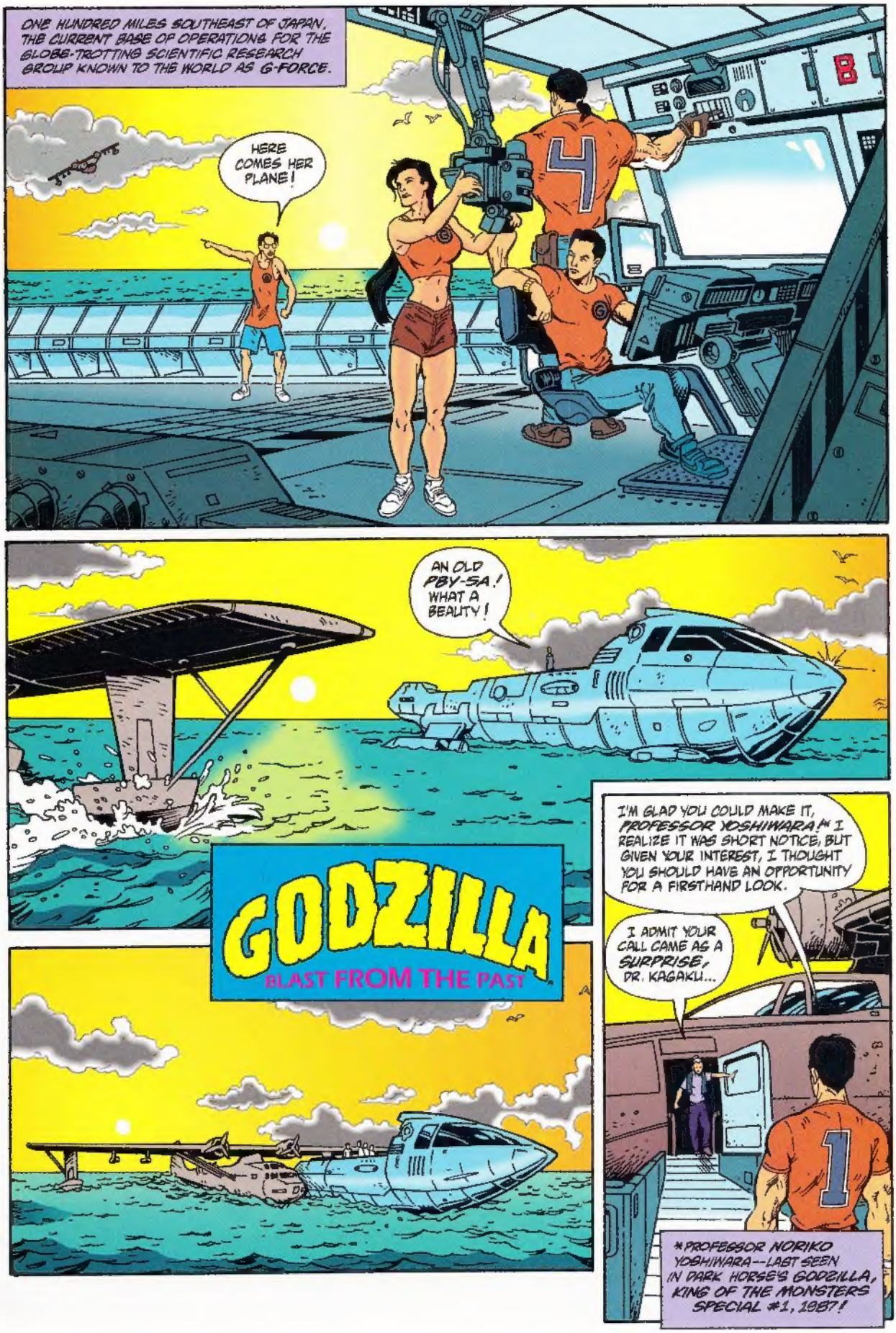
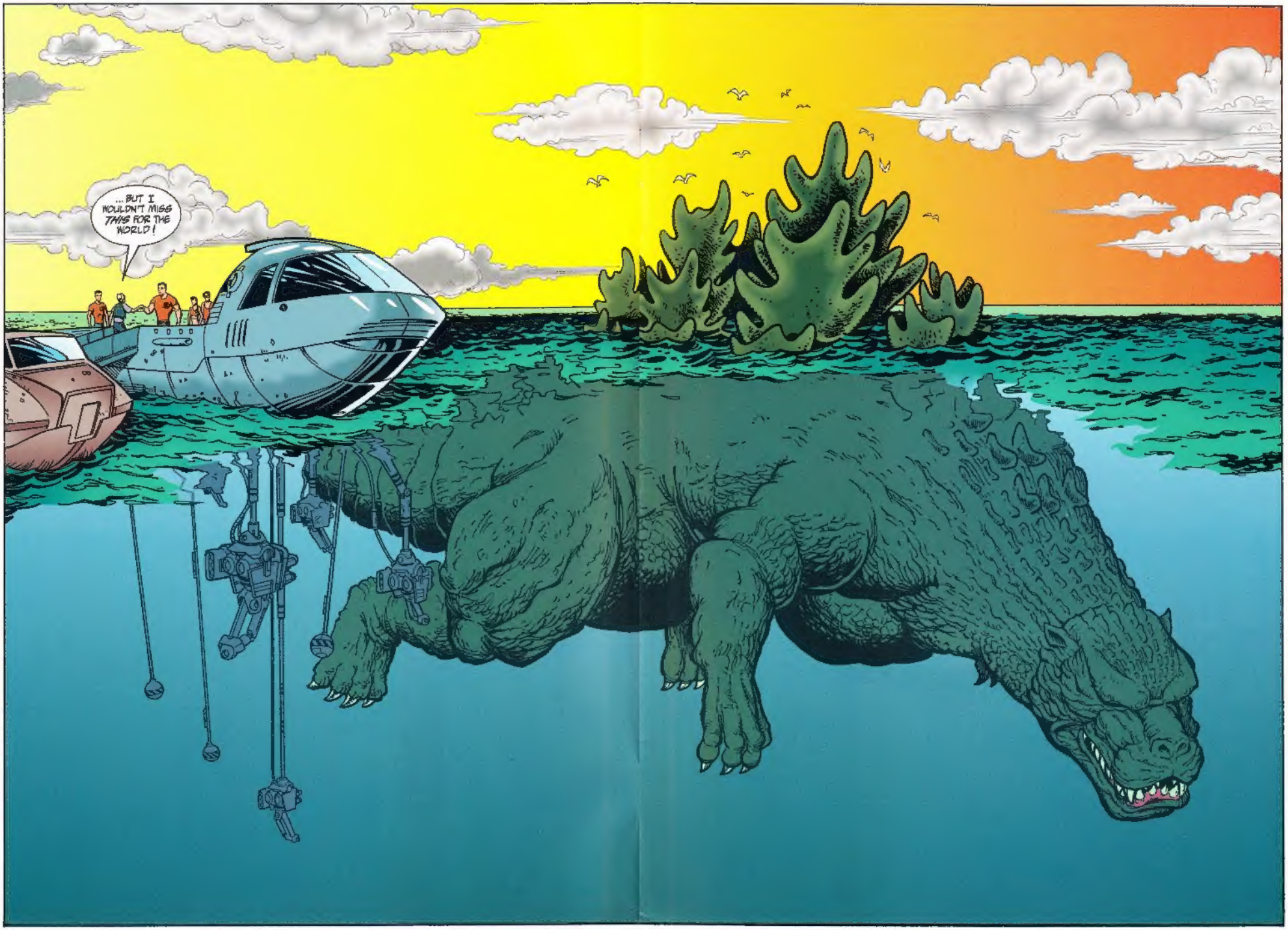
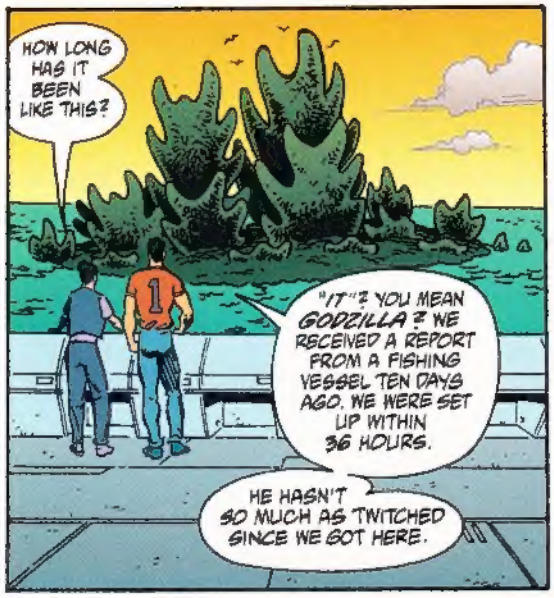

ONE HUNDRED MILES SOUTHEAST OF JAPAN, THE CURRENT BASE OF OPERATIONS FOR THE GLOBE-TROTTING SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH GROUP KNOWN TO THE WORLD AS G-FORCE.
HERE COMES HER PLANE!
AN OLD PBY-5A! WHAT A BEAUTY!
GODZILLA
BLAST FROM THE PAST
I'M GLAD YOU COULD MAKE IT, PROFESSOR YOSHIWARA!* I REALIZE IT WAS SHORT NOTICE, BUT GIVEN YOUR INTEREST, I THOUGHT YOU SHOULD HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A FIRSTHAND LOOK.
I ADMIT YOUR CALL CAME AS A SURPRISE, DR. KAGAKU...
*PROFESSOR NORIKO YOSHIWARA--LAST SEEN IN DARK HORSE'S GODZILLA, KING OF THE MONSTERS SPECIAL #1, 1987!


...BUT I WOULDN'T MISS THIS FOR THE WORLD!

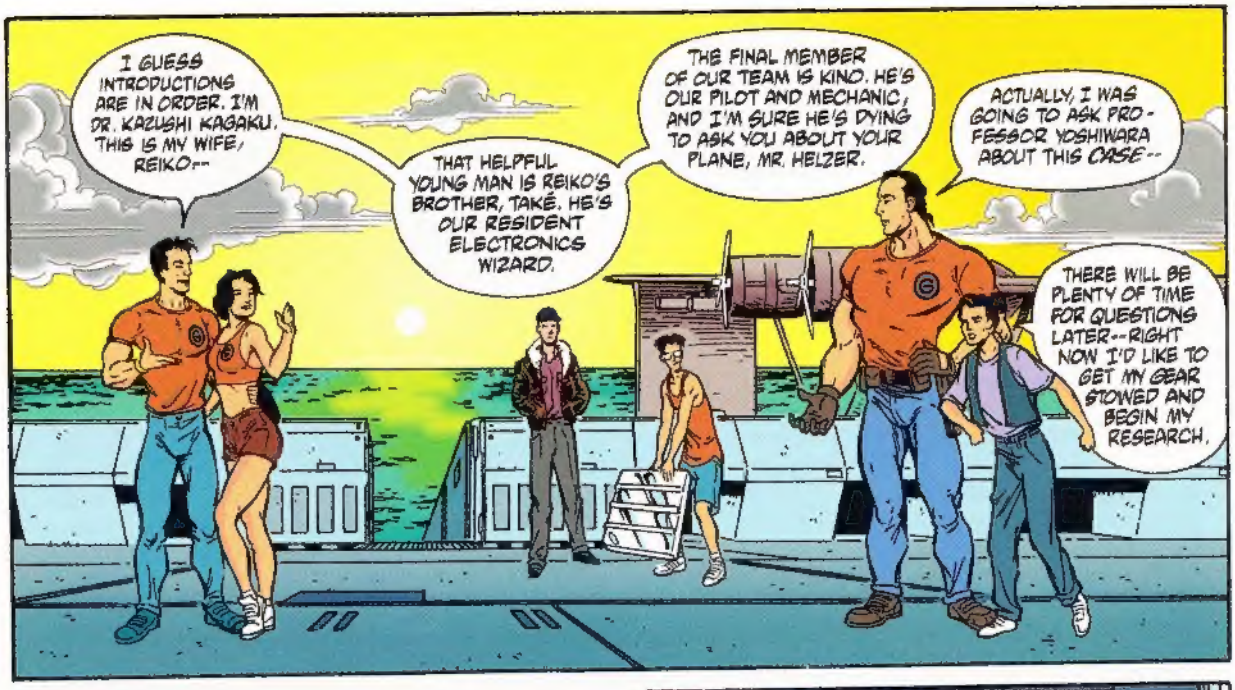

HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN LIKE THIS?
"IT"? YOU MEAN GODZILLA? WE RECEIVED A REPORT FROM A FISHING VESSEL TEN DAYS AGO. WE WERE SET UP WITHIN 36 HOURS.
HE HASN'T SO MUCH AS TWITCHED SINCE WE GOT HERE.

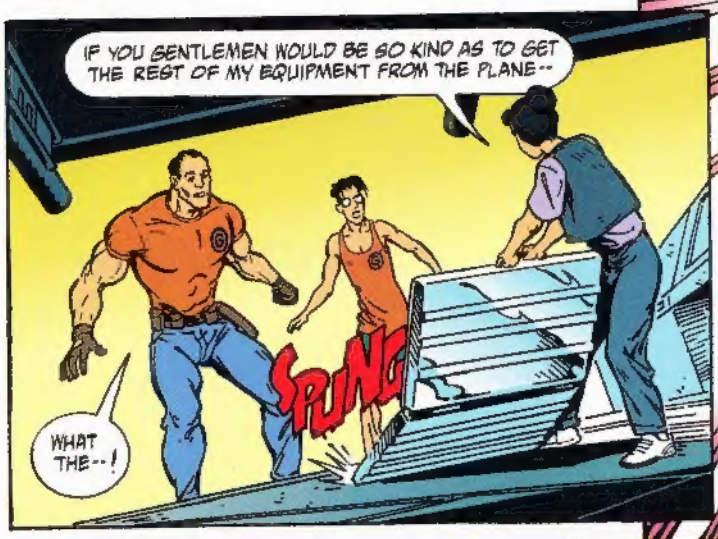
THEN IT'S DEAD?
BIG G DEAD? NO SUCH LUCK, NORIKO. HE'S NOT EVEN SLEEPING, REALLY. ALL OF OUR INSTRUMENTS SAY HIS LIFE FUNCTIONS ARE PRACTICALLY NONEXISTENT, BUT HIS BRAIN ACTIVITY SHOWS MORE UPS AND DOWNS THAN A RIDE AT THE TOKYO DISNEYLAND.
REIKO CAN TELL YOU MORE.

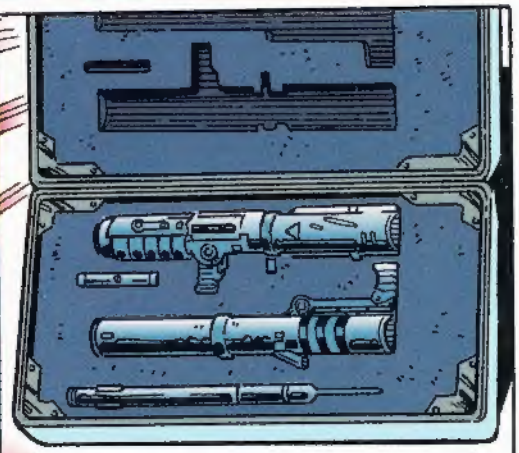
GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN, NORIKO. AS YOU CAN SEE FROM THESE READ-OUTS, GODZILLA'S IN A RESTIVE STATE, BUT IT'S NOT SLEEP. IT'S MORE LIKE HE'S WAITING FOR SOMETHING.
MAYBE IT IS...

LET ME GIVE YOU A HAND WITH THAT, MR.--
THE NAME'S HELZER. BURTON HELZER.* I'M MISS YOSHIWARA'S PILOT. NOW YOU BE EXTRA CAREFUL WITH THAT CASE, YOUNG FELLA.
*ALSO LAST SEEN IN G., K.o.t. M.S. #1

YEP. THIS IS THE SPOT, ALL RIGHT.

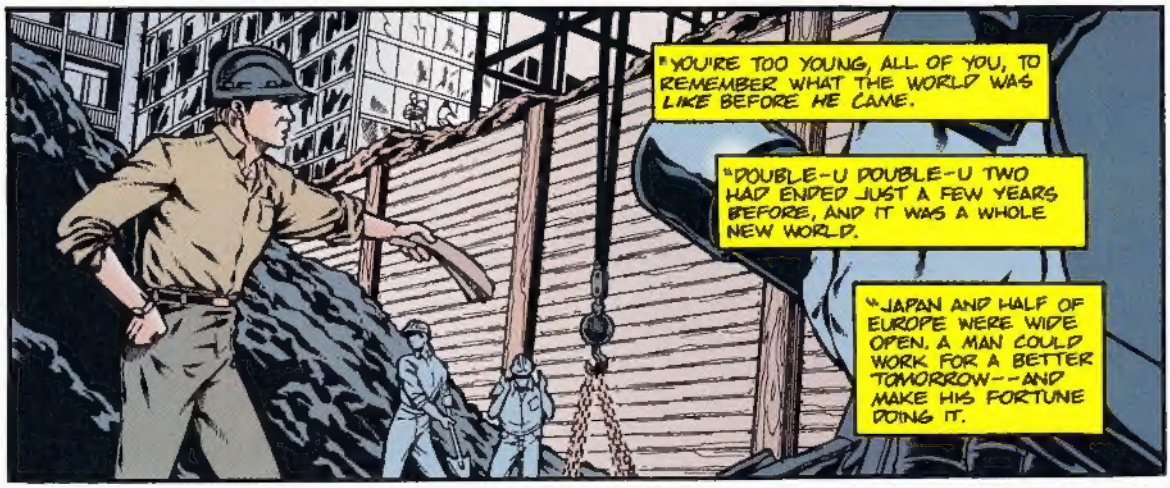




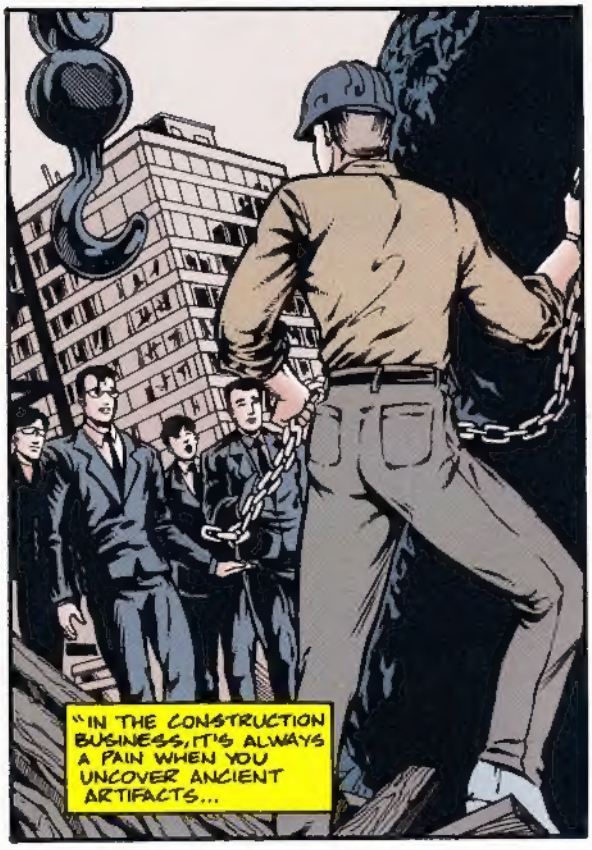


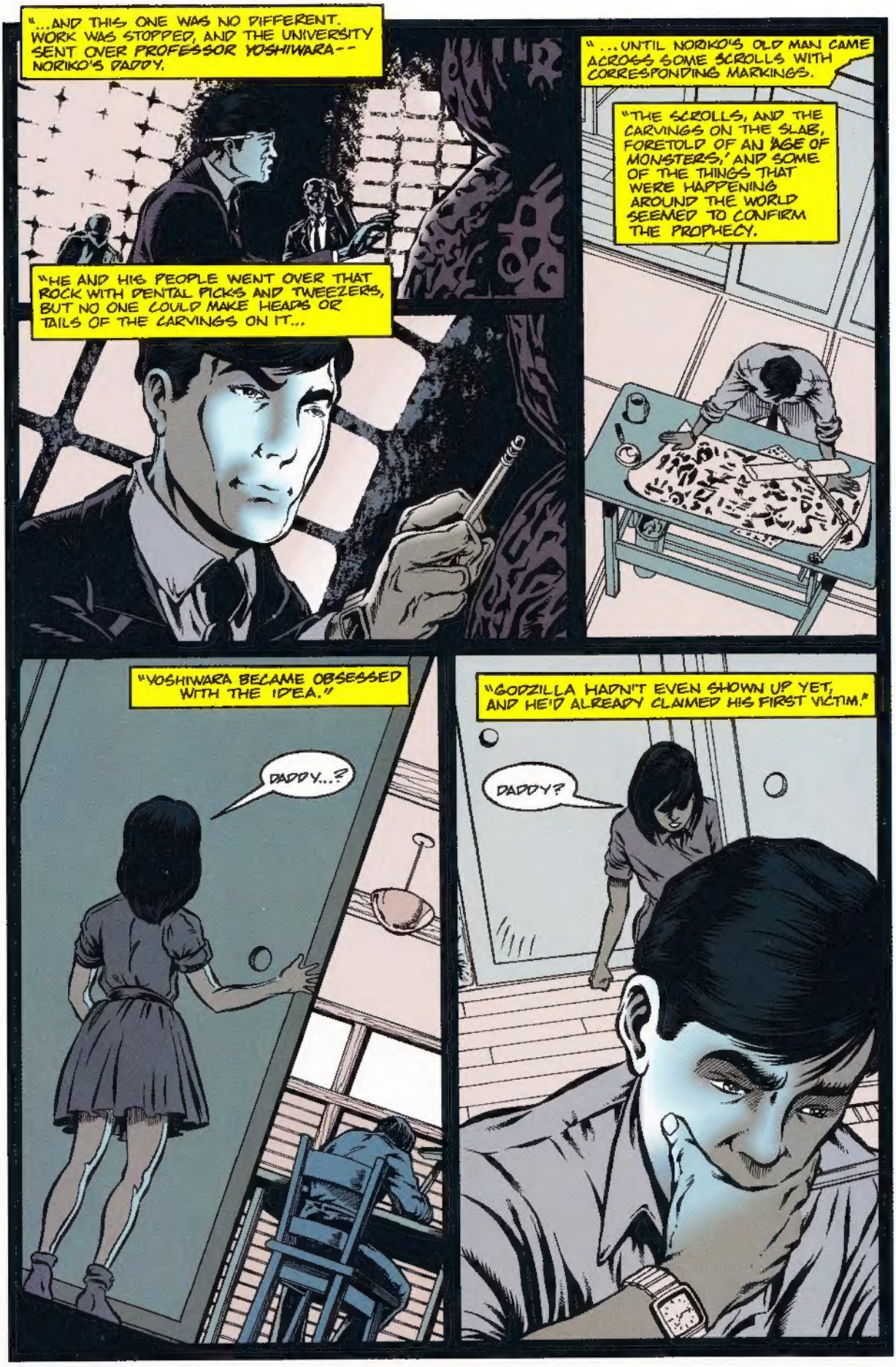
A MISSILE LAUNCHER?

I DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO HURT ANYBODY, BUT NORIKO AND I ARE GONNA DO WHAT WE CAME HERE TO DO--AND NONE OF YOU ARE GONNA STOP US.
TO YOU, GODZILLA IS JUST SOME BIG RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY. BUT FOR NORIKO AND ME, HE REPRESENTS SOMETHING A WHOLE LOT DIFFERENT...


"YOU'RE TOO YOUNG, ALL OF YOU, TO REMEMBER WHAT THE WORLD WAS LIKE BEFORE HE CAME.
"DOUBLE-U DOUBLE-U TWO HAD ENDED JUST A FEW YEARS BEFORE, AND IT WAS A WHOLE NEW WORLD.
"JAPAN AND HALF OF EUROPE WERE WIDE OPEN. A MAN COULD WORK FOR A BETTER TOMORROW--AND MAKE HIS FORTUNE DOING IT.

"I WAS WORKING FOR AN AMERICAN FIRM, OVERSEEING THE CONSTRUCTION OF ITS JAPANESE HEADQUARTERS, WHEN THE 'SLAB' WAS DISCOVERED.

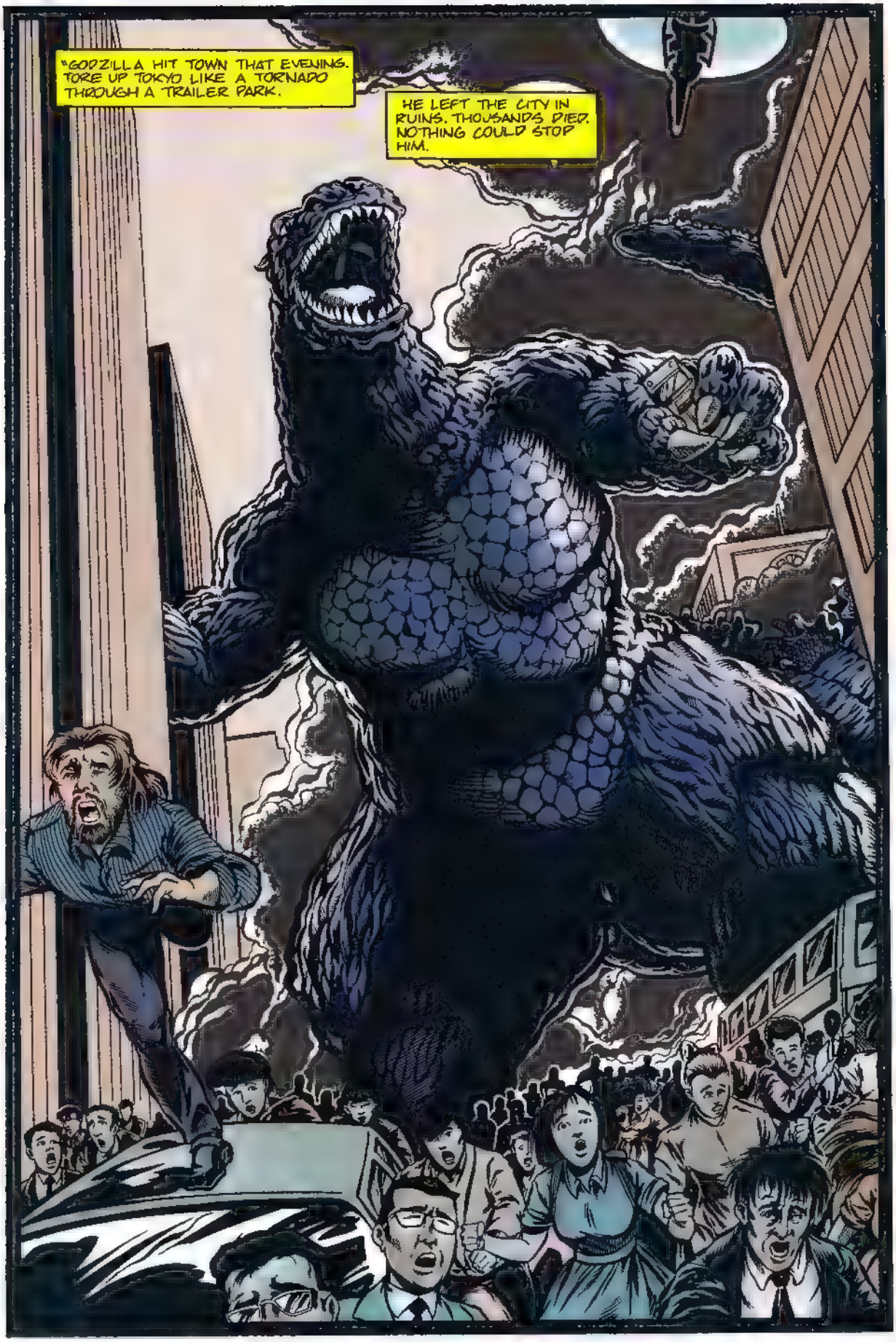

"IN THE CONSTRUCTION BUSINESS, IT'S ALWAYS A PAIN WHEN YOU UNCOVER ANCIENT ARTIFACTS...


"...AND THIS ONE WAS NO DIFFERENT. WORK WAS STOPPED, AND THE UNIVERSITY SENT OVER PROFESSOR YOSHIWARA-- NORIKO'S DADDY.
"HE AND HIS PEOPLE WENT OVER THAT ROCK WITH DENTAL PICKS AND TWEEZERS, BUT NO ONE COULD MAKE HEADS OR TAILS OF THE CARVINGS ON IT...
"...UNTIL NORIKO'S OLD MAN CAME ACROSS SOME SCROLLS WITH CORRESPONDING MARKINGS.
"THE SCROLLS, AND THE CARVINGS ON THE SLAB, FORETOLD OF AN 'AGE OF MONSTERS,' AND SOME OF THE THINGS THAT WERE HAPPENING AROUND THE WORLD SEEMED TO CONFIRM THE PROPHECY.
"YOSHIWARA BECAME OBSESSED WITH THE IDEA."
DADDY...?
"GODZILLA HADN'T EVEN SHOWN UP YET, AND HE'D ALREADY CLAIMED HIS FIRST VICTIM."
DADDY?

"IN THE MEANTIME, MY CONSTRUCTION TEAM WAS FALLING BEHIND SCHEDULE. I WENT OVER YOSHIWARA'S HEAD AND TALKED TO HIS BOSSES AT THE UNIVERSITY."
YOU ARE RIGHT, MR. HELZER. THERE IS NO REASON THE ARTIFACT CANNOT BE STUDIED ELSEWHERE.
THEN I CAN GET THIS HUNK OF ROCK OUT OF HERE?
YOU MAY TRANSPORT IT TO THE UNIVERSITY AS SOON AS YOU WISH.
DR. HIKEDA! MR. HELZER! I MUST SPEAK TO YOU ABOUT THE SLAB!
THE SLAB'S NOT MY PROBLEM ANYMORE, YOSHIWARA. WE'RE MOVING IT TO THE UNIVERSITY GROUNDS.
TODAY.

WHA--?
NO, YOU MUSTN'T! PLEASE, YOU HAVE TO LISTEN TO ME!
I'VE DECIPHERED THE CARVINGS ON THE SLAB. TOKYO--ALL OF JAPAN--IS IN GREAT DANGER! VIBRATIONS FROM THE SLAB ARE ACTING AS A BEACON, ATTRACTING THE MONSTERS OF ANCIENT LEGEND!
LOOK AT THESE NEWS REPORTS!
THE GIANT FLYING CREATURE OVER THE SEA OF JAPAN...THE "SEA MONSTER" THAT DESTROYED THE SHIP IN THE NORTH PACIFIC... THE CLOUD OF LOCUSTS OVER KYUSHU...
CUST RAIN
FORETOLD ON STONE
cont.pg 3
...SORAN... KAMERUS...INAGOS... GODZILLA...THEY'VE ALL AWAKENED!

THE SLAB MUST BE DESTROYED! YOU MUST LISTEN--
FIRST YOU WANT THE ROCK PRESERVED, NOW YOU WANT TO DESTROY IT.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOUR SUPERIORS THINK OF YOUR STORY, YOSHIWARA, BUT IT SOUNDS CRAZY TO ME!
"NORIKO'S OLD MAN LEFT IN DISGRACE. NOBODY BELIEVED IN MONSTERS...THEN."


"GODZILLA HIT TOWN THAT EVENING. TORE UP TOKYO LIKE A TORNADO THROUGH A TRAILER PARK.
HE LEFT THE CITY IN RUINS. THOUSANDS DIED. NOTHING COULD STOP HIM.

"THE MILITARY SET UP FOR A SHOWDOWN .
".. BUT THEIR RESISTANCE JUST SEEMED TO ANNOY GODZILLA.
"THEY HIT HIM WITH EVERYTHING THEY HAD ..
"...AND THE ONLY RESULT WAS THE DEATH OF MORE GOOD MEN.
"GODZILLA WAS ON THE TRAIL OF SOMETHING...

"... AND NOTHING WAS GOING TO KEEP HIM FROM HIS DESTINATION."
WHAT THE--?!
HELZER! I NEED YOUR HELP! WE MUST GET THE SLAB OUT OF THE CITY!
VIBRATIONS FROM THE SLAB ARE "CALLING" GODZILLA. I WARNED YOU THIS WOULD HAPPEN, AND YOU WOULDN'T LISTEN.
NOW YOU MUST HELP ME!
BUT WHAT CAN WE--
YOU HAVE TWO HELICOPTERS. YOU WILL USE ONE TO FLY THE SLAB OUT TO SEA--TO THE JAPAN TRENCH, IF YOU CAN.
AND WHAT ABOUT YOU?
I WILL FLY THE SECOND HELI-COPTER. I WILL BUY YOU THE TIME YOU NEED TO MOVE THE SLAB.

EVERY AGE NEEDS A KING!

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AGE OF MONSTERS

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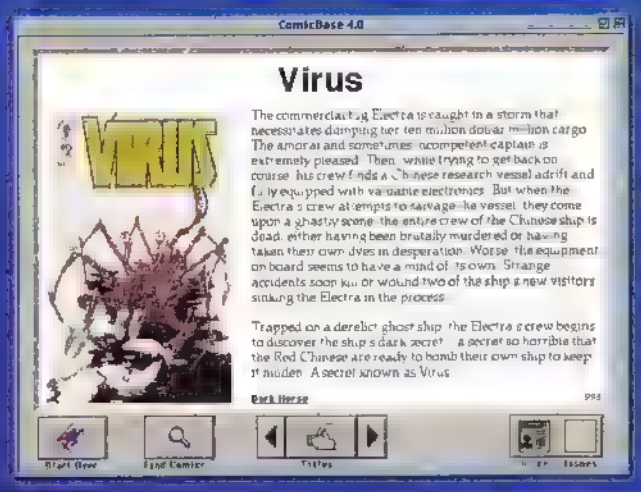

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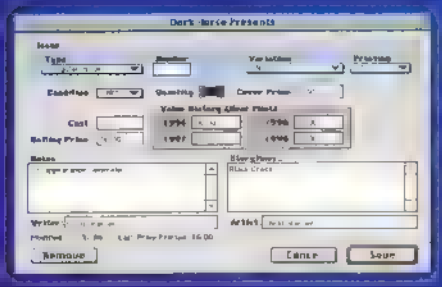

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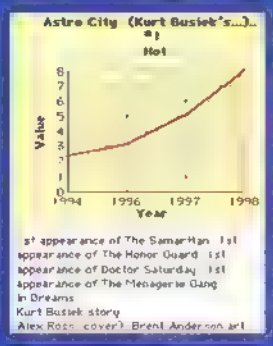

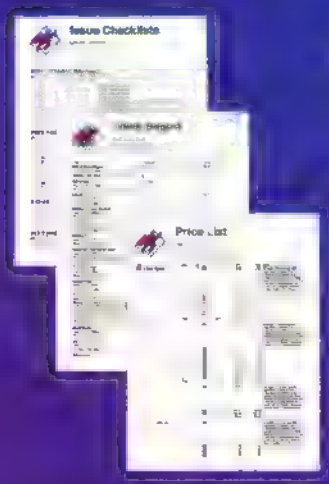

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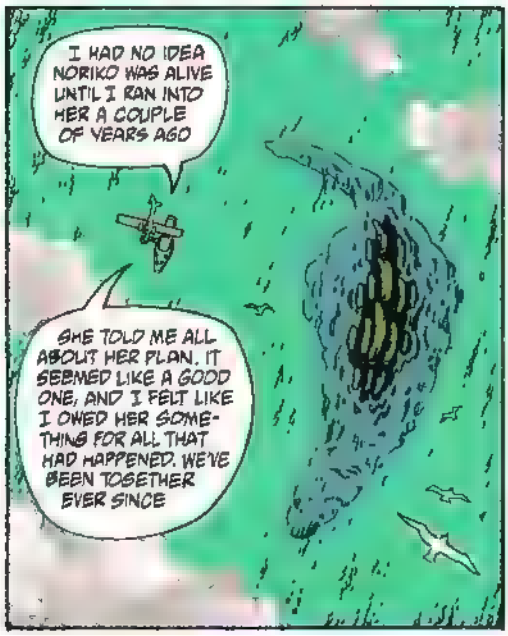
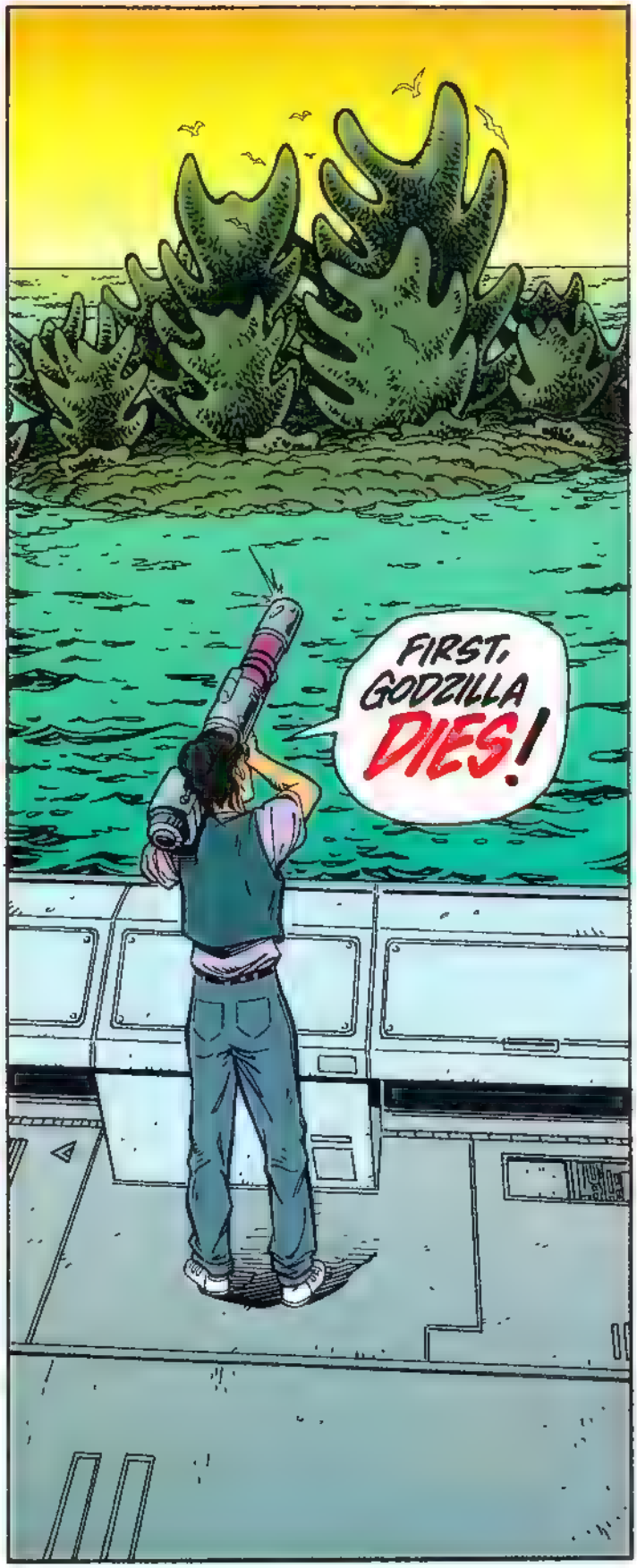
BUT YOU DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT FLYING ONE OF--
I CAN FLY IT WELL ENOUGH FOR WHAT I MUST DO.
"I WAS IN THE WAR. I FOUGHT ALL OVER THE PACIFIC, AND I SAW ACTS OF BRAVERY PERFORMED BY MEN ON BOTH SIDES...
"... BUT TO GO ONE-ON-ONE AGAINST A MONSTER LIKE GODZILLA..."
NO! STAY AWAY FROM MY FAMILY!
I'M GOING TO SEND YOU BACK TO HELL MONSTER!

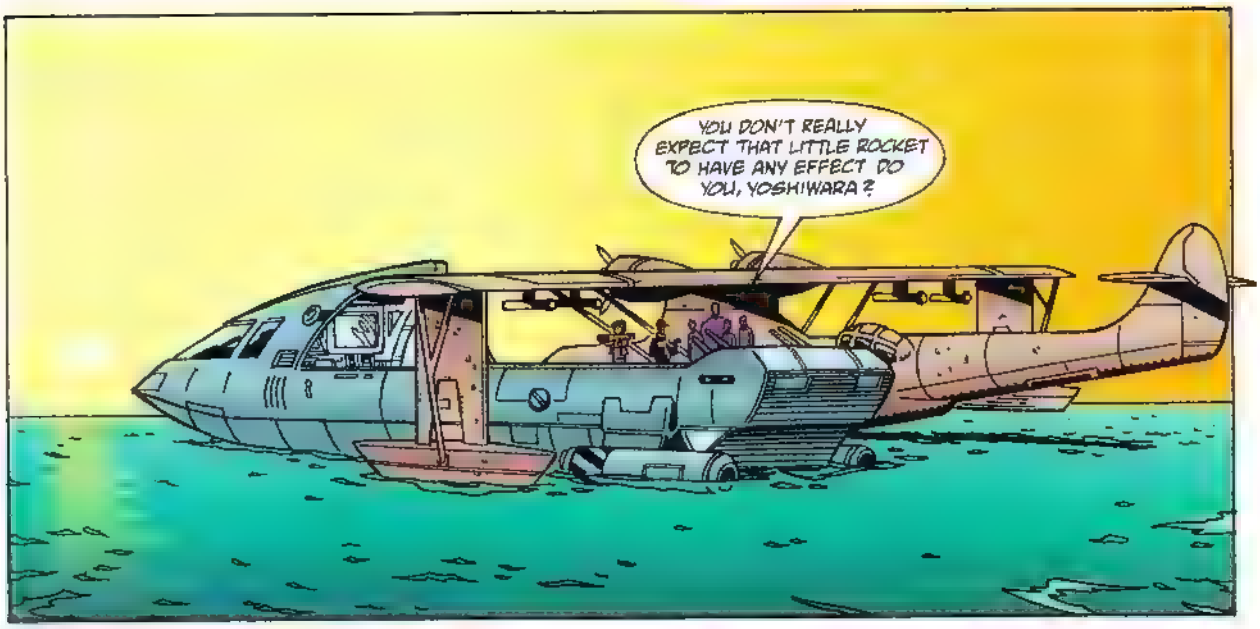
"YOSHIWARA WAS TRUE TO HIS WORD. HE BOUGHT ME THE TIME I NEEDED TO GET THE SLAB AIRBORNE.
"POOR MRS. YOSHIWARA WASN'T SO LUCKY, AND LITTLE NORIKO BARELY MISSED DYING WITH HER."
RUN, NORIKO!
MAMA!
"BUT, AS FAR AS I KNEW, THE WHOLE WORLD WAS A WRITE-OFF. I COULD ONLY HOPE THAT YOSHIWARA HAD BEEN RIGHT ABOUT THE SLAB...
" ...THAT GODZILLA WOULD COME AFTER IT, AND IGNORE THE CITY.
"TURNED OUT, YOSHIWARA KNEW WHAT HE WAS TALKING ABOUT."
I MANAGED TO GET AWAY AND DUMP THE SLAB-- RIGHT ABOUT HERE, AS A MATTER OF FACT. GODZILLA FOLLOWED ME ALL THE WAY.
I GUESS I KIND OF SAVED TOKYO... WHAT WAS LEFT OF IT.


I HAD NO IDEA NORIKO WAS ALIVE UNTIL I RAN INTO HER A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO
SHE TOLD ME ALL ABOUT HER PLAN. IT SEEMED LIKE A GOOD ONE, AND I FELT LIKE I OWED HER SOMETHING FOR ALL THAT HAD HAPPENED. WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER EVER SINCE

PLAN? WHAT PLAN, YOSHIWARA?

I'LL LET YOU SEE ALL OF MY RESEARCH AFTER I'M FINISHED HERE, KAGAKU. KNOWING REIKO'S INTEREST IN "DEAD" LANGUAGES, I'M SURE SHE'LL FIND MY FATHER'S NOTES MOST ENLIGHTENING.
BUT, LIKE I SAID, THAT COMES AFTER.


FIRST, GODZILLA DIES!

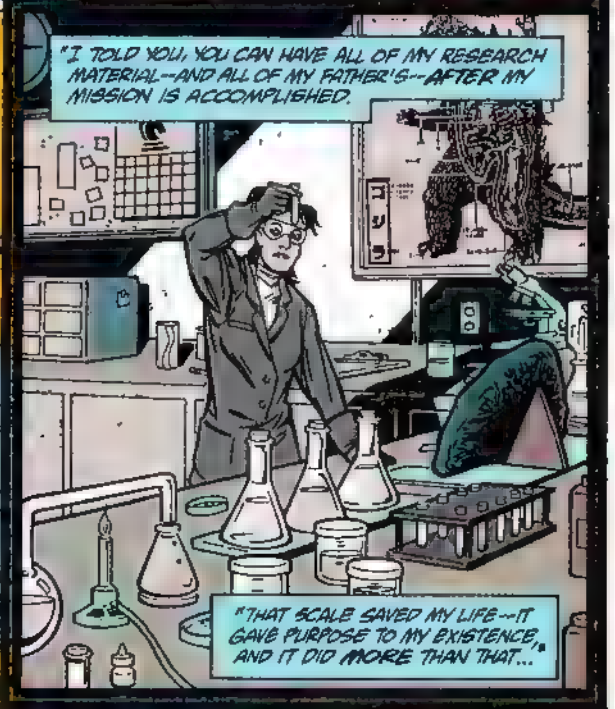

YOU DON'T REALLY EXPECT THAT LITTLE ROCKET TO HAVE ANY EFFECT DO YOU, YOSHIWARA?

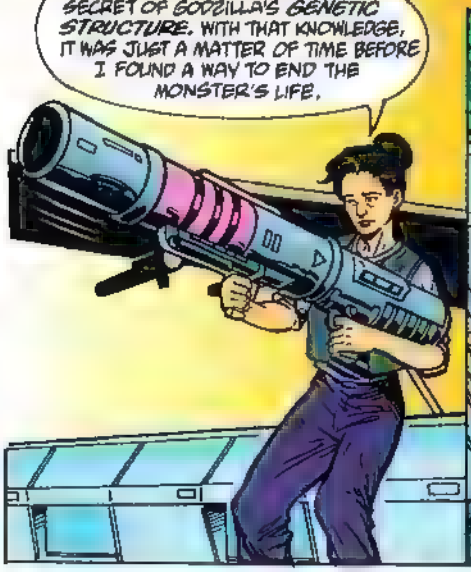
AS A MATTER OF FACT, I DO
I MAY AS WELL FILL YOU IN...
...IT ISN'T GOING ANYWHERE.

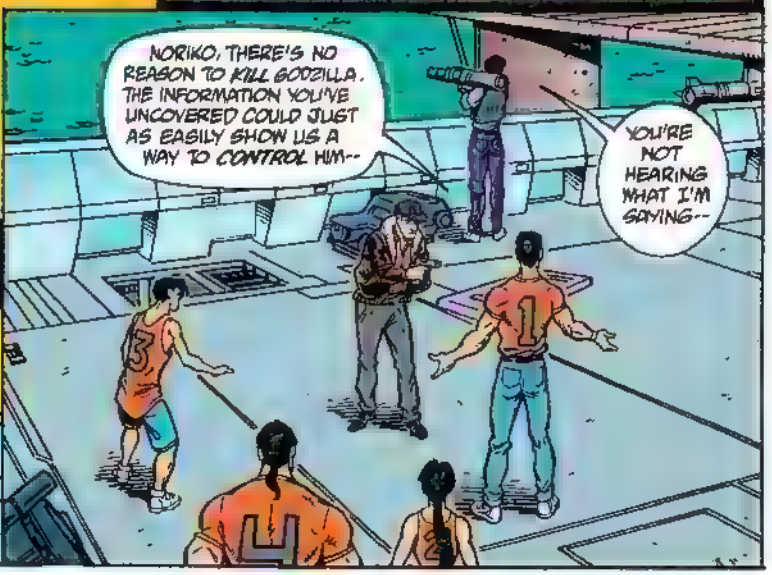
AS YOU KNOW, KAZUSHI, LIKE YOU, I'VE MADE GODZILLA MY LIFE'S WORK. BUT I WAS NEVER INTERESTED IN THE PURE RESEARCH THAT DRIVES YOU AND YOUR TEAM...

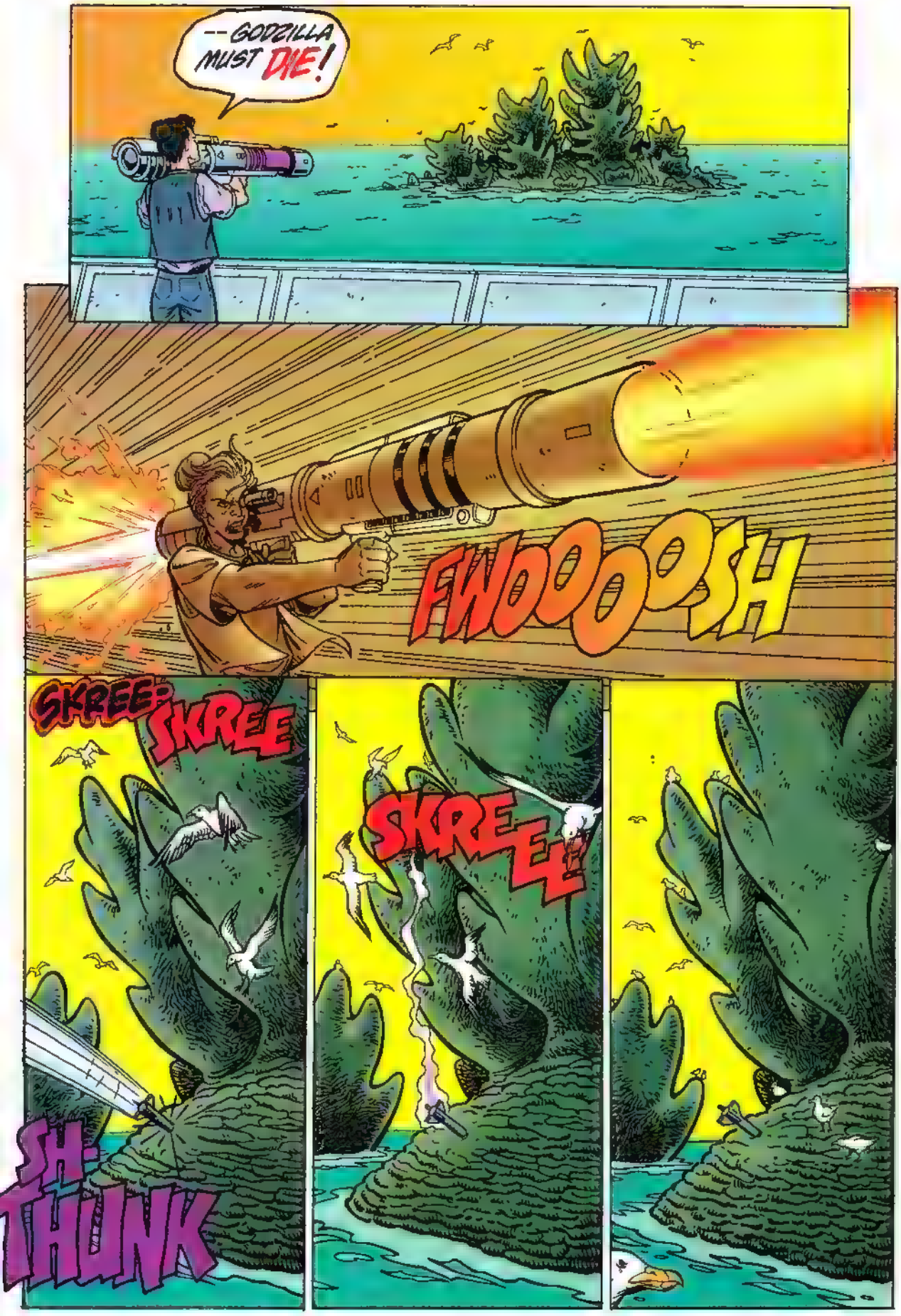
"GODZILLA'S ATTACK ON TOKYO FORTY YEARS AGO TOOK MY PARENTS FROM ME...DESTROYED MY WHOLE WORLD. I WAS LEFT WITH ONLY TWO THINGS...
"...MY HATRED, AND ONE OF THE MONSTER'S SCALES."

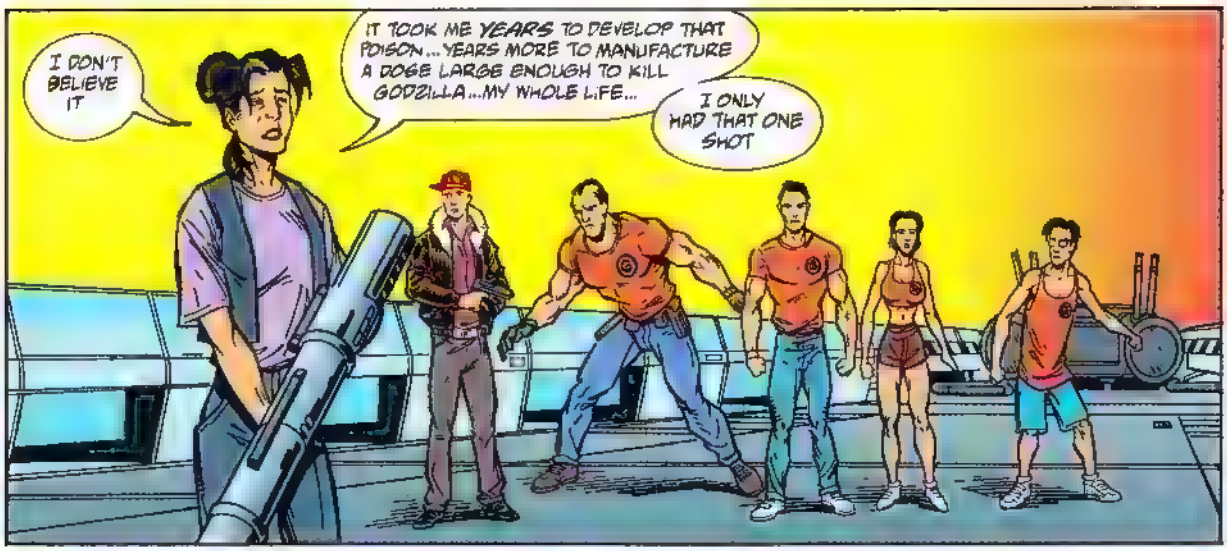
YOU HAVE A PIECE OF GODZILLA? WE'VE BEEN TRYING FOR YEARS TO OBTAIN A TISSUE SAMPLE!*
EASY, DOC.
KAZUSHI, PLEASE.
*AS SEEN IN GODZILLA COLOR SPECIAL.


"I TOLD YOU, YOU CAN HAVE ALL OF MY RESEARCH MATERIAL--AND ALL OF MY FATHER'S--AFTER MY MISSION IS ACCOMPLISHED.
"THAT SCALE SAVED MY LIFE--IT GAVE PURPOSE TO MY EXISTENCE, AND IT DID MORE THAN THAT...

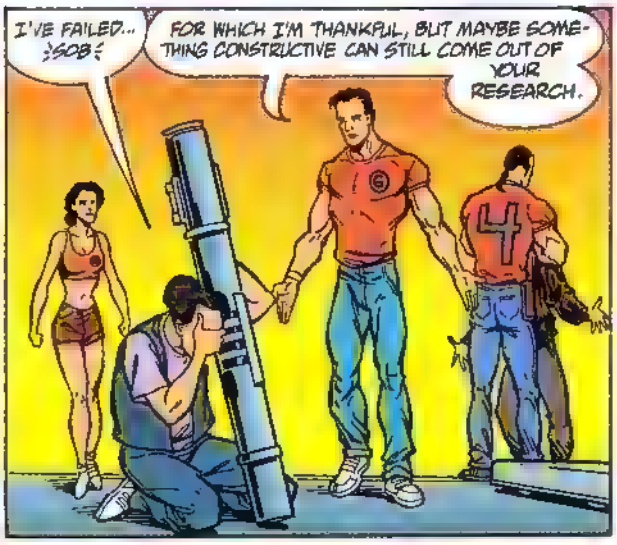

...IT REVEALED TO ME THE SECRET OF GODZILLA'S GENETIC STRUCTURE. WITH THAT KNOWLEDGE, IT WAS JUST A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE I FOUND A WAY TO END THE MONSTER'S LIFE.


NORIKO, THERE'S NO REASON TO KILL GODZILLA. THE INFORMATION YOU'VE UNCOVERED COULD JUST AS EASILY SHOW US A WAY TO CONTROL HIM--
YOU'RE NOT HEARING WHAT I'M SAYING--

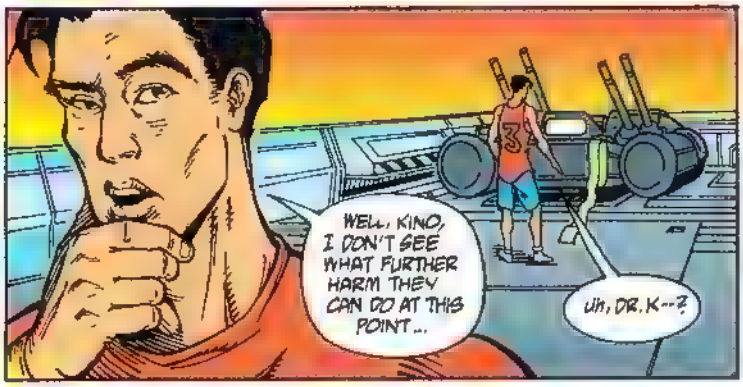

--GODZILLA MUST DIE!
FWOOOOSH
SKREE-SKREE
SKREEEE
SH-THUNK

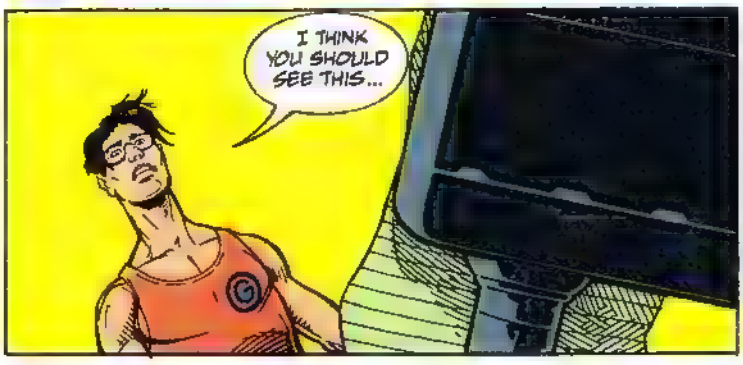

I DON'T BELIEVE IT
IT TOOK ME YEARS TO DEVELOP THAT POISON... YEARS MORE TO MANUFACTURE A DOSE LARGE ENOUGH TO KILL GODZILLA...MY WHOLE LIFE...
I ONLY HAD THAT ONE SHOT

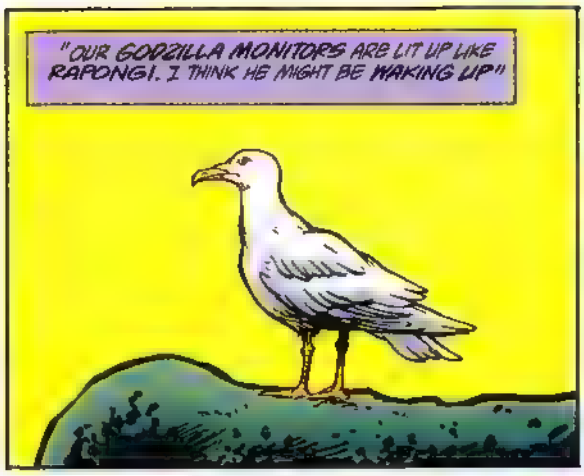
YEAH, AND THAT'S ALL YOU'RE GETTING!
UHH!
SMAK

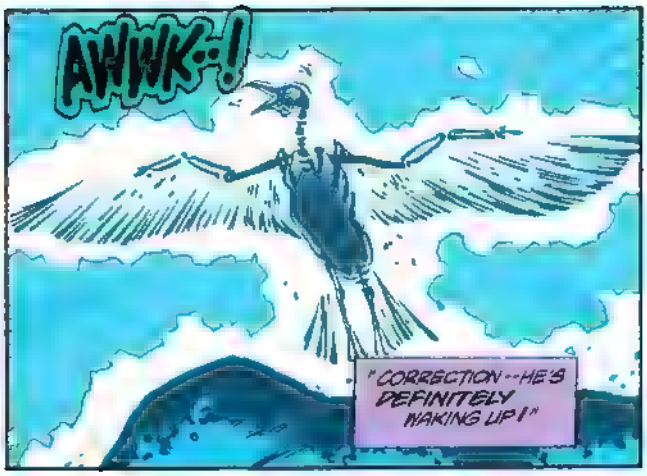

I'VE FAILED... :SOB:
FOR WHICH I'M THANKFUL, BUT MAYBE SOMETHING CONSTRUCTIVE CAN STILL COME OUT OF YOUR RESEARCH.

LET GO OF ME!
YEAH, RIGHT. MAYBE YOU'D LIKE YOUR GUN BACK WHILE I'M AT IT, EH?
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO WITH THESE TWO, DOC?


WELL, KINO, I DON'T SEE WHAT FURTHER HARM THEY CAN DO AT THIS POINT...
UH, DR. K--?


I THINK YOU SHOULD SEE THIS...

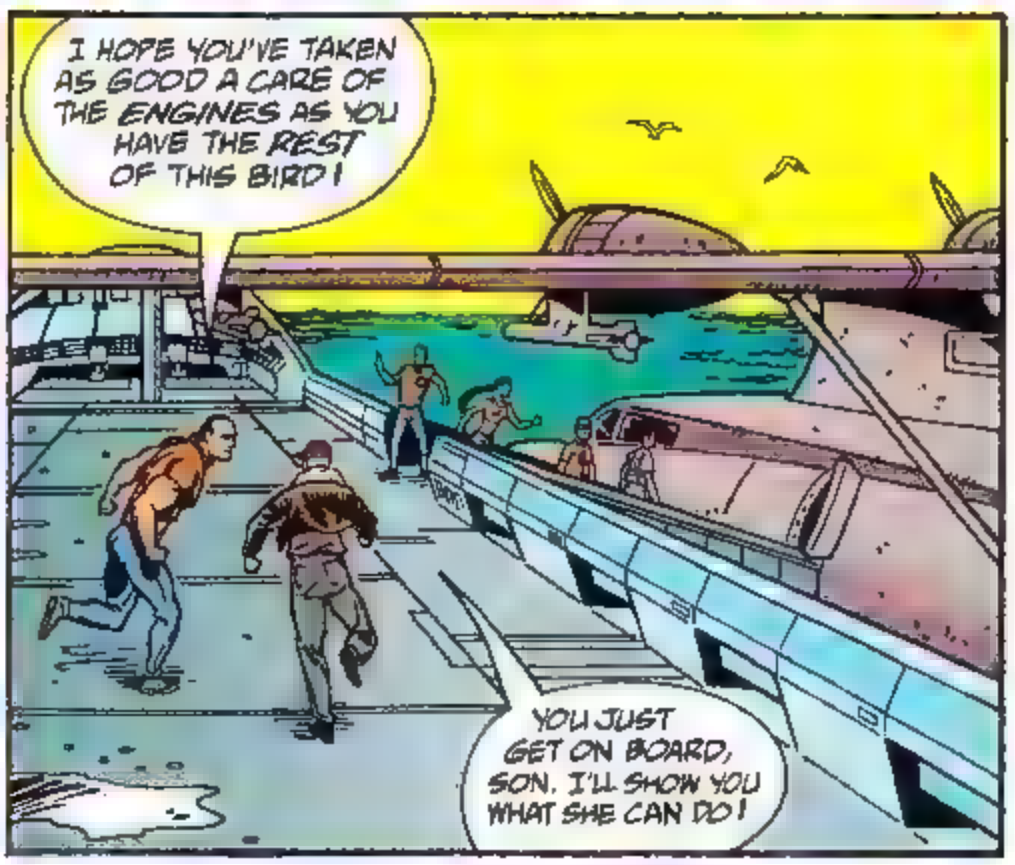


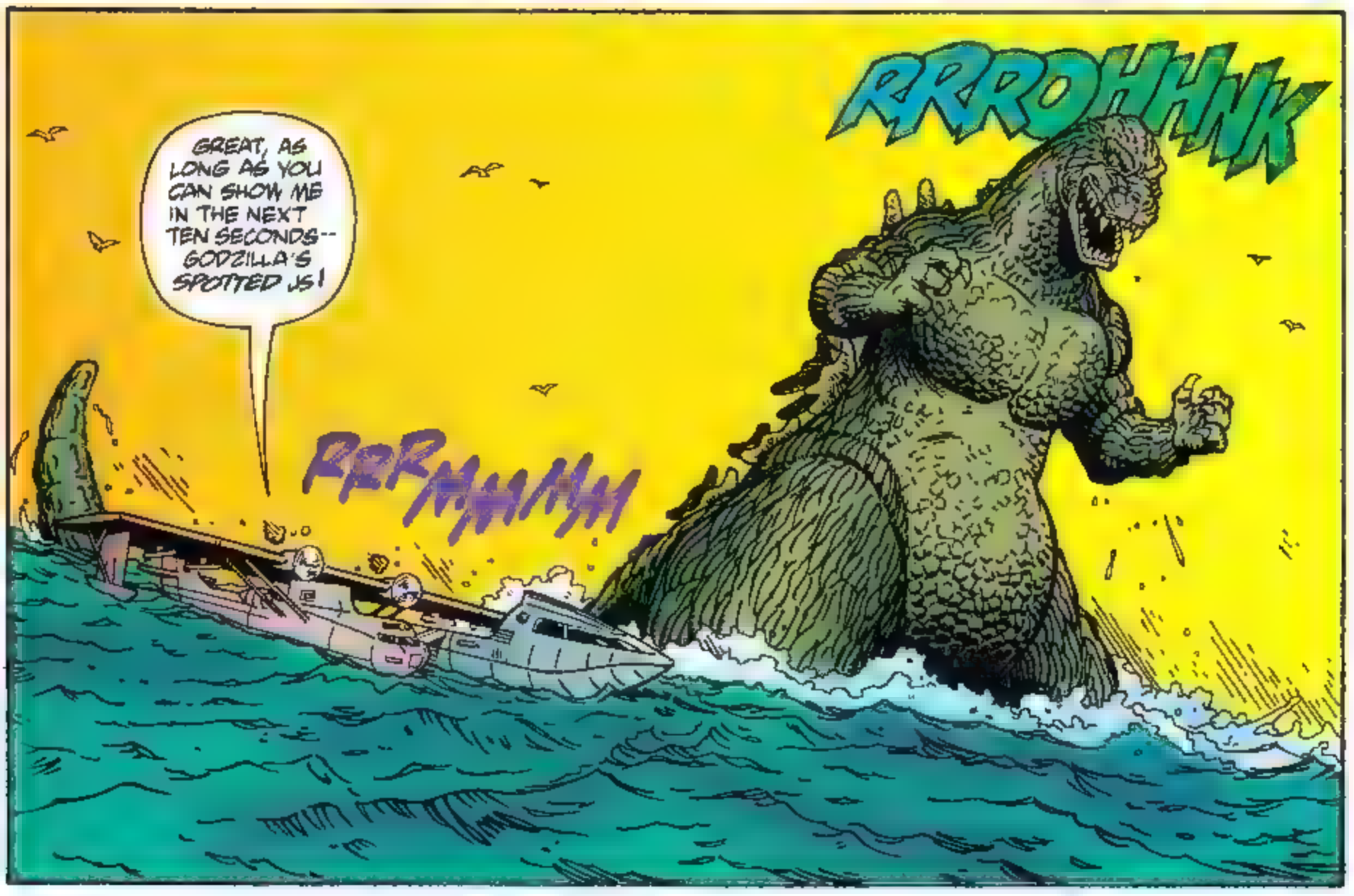


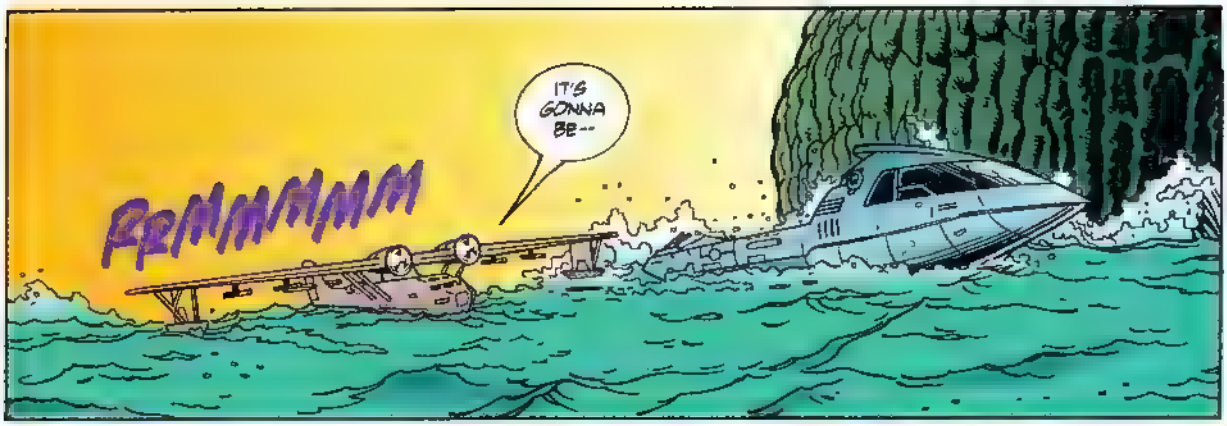
SKREEEEONGK

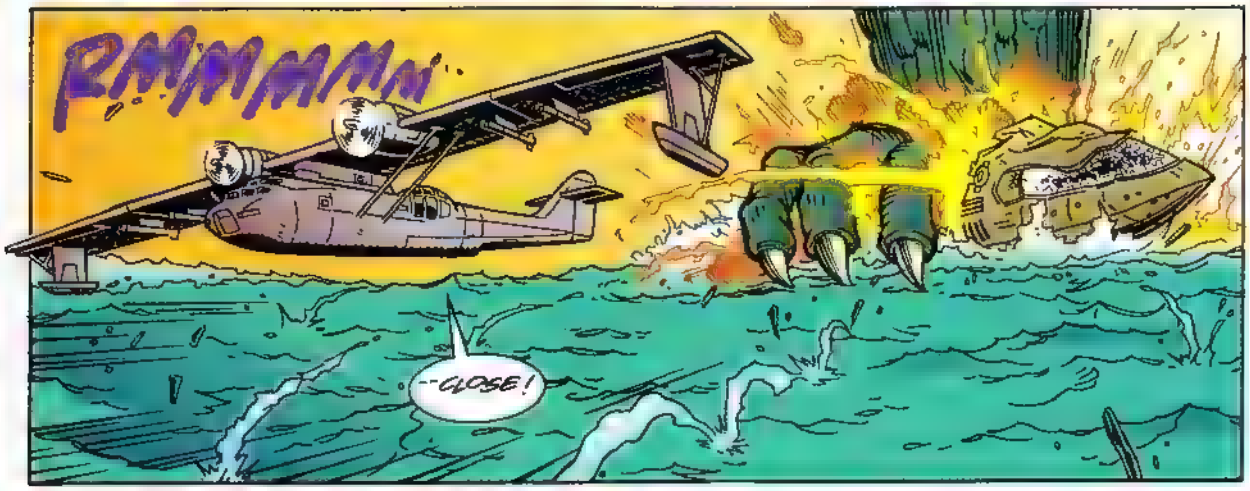
MY POISON IT'S HAVING AN EFFECT!
THIS IS NO TIME TO GLOAT-- WE'RE SITTING DUCKS OUT HERE!

I'LL START THE ENGINES!
THERE'S NO TIME, KINO!
REIKO'S RIGHT! EVERY-BODY ON THE PLANE!

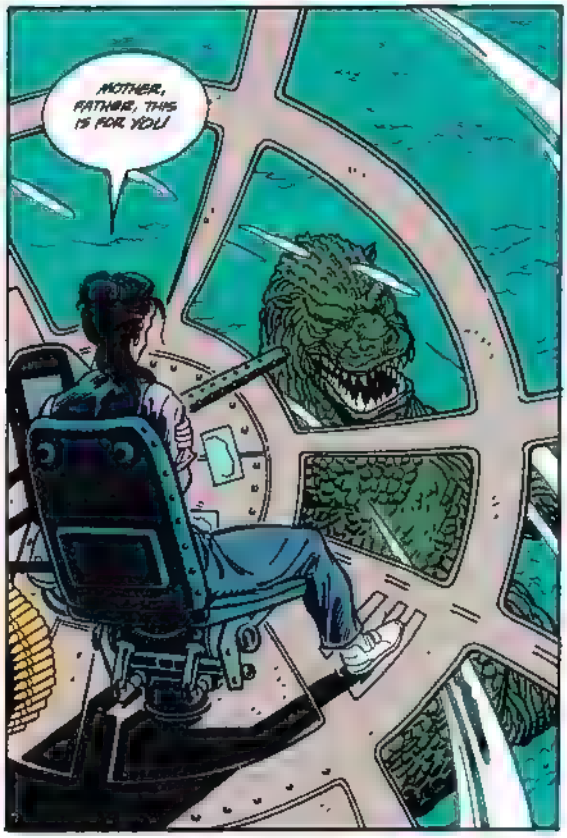

I HOPE YOU'VE TAKEN AS GOOD A CARE OF THE ENGINES AS YOU HAVE THE REST OF THIS BIRD!
YOU JUST GET ON BOARD, SON. I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT SHE CAN DO!

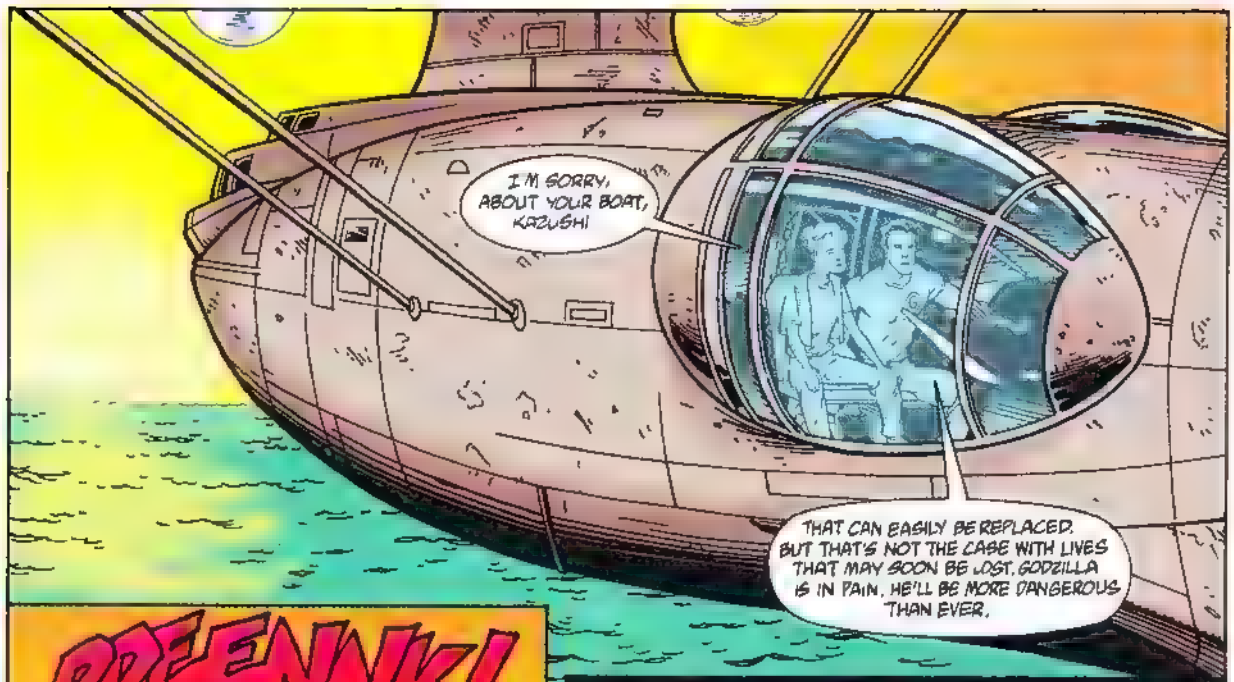

GREAT, AS LONG AS YOU CAN SHOW ME IN THE NEXT TEN SECONDS-- GODZILLA'S SPOTTED US!
RRROHHHK
RRRMMMM


IT'S GONNA BE--
RMMMMM

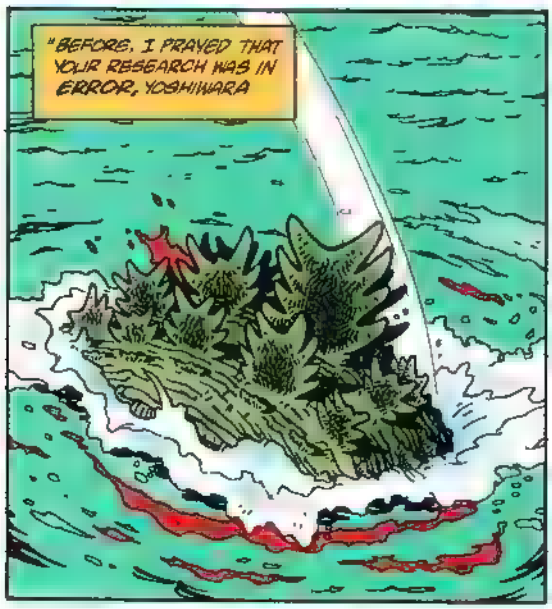

RMMMMM
--CLOSE!

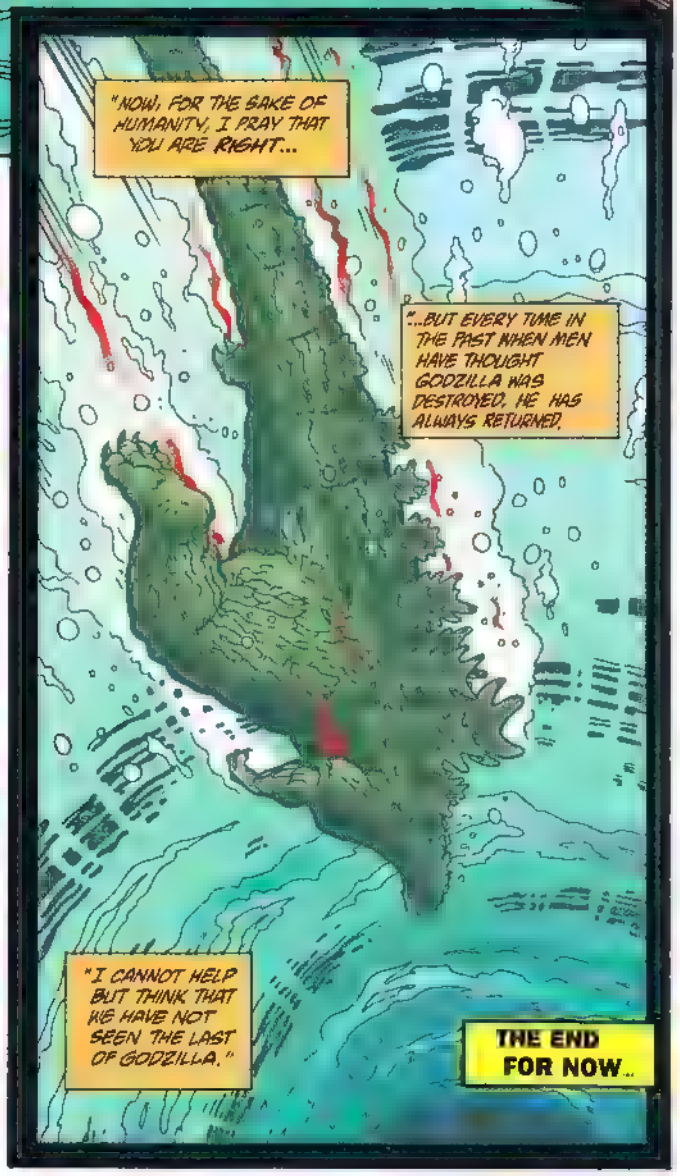
I TOLD YOU SHE COULD DO IT!
KREEONK


MOTHER, FATHER, THIS IS FOR YOU!


I'M SORRY, ABOUT YOUR BOAT, KAZUSHI
THAT CAN EASILY BE REPLACED. BUT THAT'S NOT THE CASE WITH LIVES THAT MAY SOON BE LOST. GODZILLA IS IN PAIN. HE'LL BE MORE DANGEROUS THAN EVER.

RREENNK!
"NOT FOR LONG, KAZUSHI. MY POISON WILL KILL GODZILLA. OF THAT I'M CERTAIN."


"BEFORE, I PRAYED THAT YOUR RESEARCH WAS IN ERROR, YOSHIWARA


"NOW, FOR THE SAKE OF HUMANITY, I PRAY THAT YOU ARE RIGHT...
"...BUT EVERY TIME IN THE PAST WHEN MEN HAVE THOUGHT GODZILLA WAS DESTROYED, HE HAS ALWAYS RETURNED.
"I CANNOT HELP BUT THINK THAT WE HAVE NOT SEEN THE LAST OF GODZILLA."
THE END FOR NOW...

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now she's the Empire's most wanted criminal.

STAR WARS

Mara Jade

BY THE EMPEROR'S HAND

by TIMOTHY ZAHN, MICHAEL A. STACKPOLE, & CARLOS EZQUERRA;

covers by KILIAN PLUNKETT

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finishline

It's a Man's World...

...but thank God for women, 'cuz it wouldn't be much of a world without them. Girls, gals, babes, broads, dames, chicks, dolls, ladies... women. No matter what their size, shape, or color they give life and give men a reason to keep on living. In celebration of these wonderful beings, I'd like to introduce you to five very special women who will soon be a part of your lives.

Buffy Summers

This high school heartbreaker loves dancing and hanging out with her friends at The Bronze — when she's not busy slaying vampires or saving the world from power-hungry demons. You've seen her in her hit television series on the WB, and now Buffy the Vampire Slayer will have her own comic book. The *DHP Annual* 1998 kicks off the action with a story by J.L. Van Meter, Luke Ross, and Rick Ketcham. Then, in September, Buffy's monthly adventures begin with *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* #1, by Andi Watson, Joe Bennett, and Ketcham. Look for covers by Arthur Adams, J. Scott Campbell, Chris Pachello, and Randy Green, as well as variant photo-covers on the newsstand editions. But that's not all! Shipping that same month is a *Buffy* graphic novel by Dan Brereton and Hector Gomez in which Buffy is lured into a "Dust Waltz" (a battle to the death) with a powerful vampire. If you want to get close to this girl, be prepared for late nights and bring your own stakes.

Elisa Cameron

As Arcadia's self-proclaimed protector, this beauty also walks the supernatural side of the street, searching for the answer to life's basic question: "Who killed me?" *Ghost* #1 brings Elisa back from her brief hiatus with new adventures by the new creative team of Chris Warner, Christian Zanier, and Steve Moncuse. Ryan Benjamin provides the covers. Also in stores in September is Dark Horse's Ghost action figure. In addition to the knock-out standard-issue figure, there are also two variant figures; Chrome Ghost and Glow-in-the-dark Ghost. Every figure comes packaged with an exclusive *Ghost* comic book by Lee Swank and Scott Benefiel, with a cover by Adam Hughes. If Elisa is the kind of woman that appeals to you, keep in mind you can look, but you (literally) can't touch.

Aimi Komori

A beguiling combination of ultra-shy and super-sexy, this little lady's powers and costumes are as varied as the colors of her eye shadow. *Masakazu Katsura's Shadow Lady* begins playing cat-and-mouse with the forces of both good and evil in September. If you want to hang with Aimi, learn to expect the unexpected and, for cryin' out loud, help this girl keep her clothes on!

Mara Jade

If you're looking for a woman who can take care of herself, Mara may fit the bill. In addition to being Force sensitive, she's also an accomplished spy and the Emperor Palpatine's personal assassin. You can meet her in August in *Star Wars: Mara Jade — By the Emperor's Hand* by Michael A. Stackpole, Timothy Zahn, and Carlos Ezquerra. Kilian Plunkett provides the covers. Be forewarned, if you want to date this babe, the Force had better be with you.

D-810X

You say you go for the strong, silent type? D-810X combines beauty and brawn in one machine-perfect package. She arrives in our time period in August in *The Terminator Special* by Alan Grant and Frank Teran and continues her adventures in *The Terminator* #1, on sale the very next month, by Grant and Steve Pugh. Before you make a fool of yourself over D-810X, I should tell you that she doesn't date outside her model number and that she's dedicated to the destruction of all humans.

That's it — five beautiful women and five more wonderful reasons for men everywhere to go on living.

Worshipping beauty,
Randy Stradley

augustchecklist

On Sale August 5

- Dark Horse Classics: Godzilla, King of the Monsters #2
- Flaming Carrot shot glass
- Flaming Carrot Zippo® lighter #2
- Hellboy: The Chained Coffin and Others (tbp)
- Kelley Jones' The Hammer: Uncle Alex (one-shot)
- Oh My Goddess!: Play the Game (one-shot)
- Red Rocket 7 (tpb)
- Scatterbrain #3
- Sin City Dames print "Wendy"
- Star Wars: Dark Forces — Soldier for the Empire (tpb)
- Star Wars: Mara Jade #1
- Star Wars: X-Wing Rogue Squadron #32

On Sale August 12

- Dark Horse Extra #3
- Dark Horse Presents Annual 1998
- Gunsmith Cats: Bad Trip #3
- Hellboy limited-edition lithograph
- Mask: Toys in the Attic #1
- Star Wars: A New Hope — Manga #2
- Terminator special (one-shot)
- Usagi Yojimbo: Brink of Life and Death (tpb)

On Sale August 19

- Decapitator #3
- Dark Horse Classics: Terror of Godzilla #1
- Lost in Space (tbp)
- Madman/The Jam #2
- Starship Troopers: Dominant Species #1
- The Two Faces of Tomorrow #1

On Sale August 26

- Aliens vs. Predator: Eternal #3
- Blade of the Immortal #24
- Curse of Dracula #2
- Edgar Rice Burroughs' Tarzan/Carson of Venus #4
- Sergio Aragonés' Boogeyman #3
- Star Wars: Tales of the Jedi — Redemption #2
- 300 #4
- Usagi Yojimbo: Brink of Life and Death (limited-edition hard cover)
- Zombieworld: Winter's Dregs #4

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